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THE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

AND

COVENANT,

OF THE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1st

IN

VERNON, CONN.;

TOGETHER WITH

Standing Rules and Historical Notices of the Church,

AND A CATALOGUE OF

THE PRESENT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS;

JUNE 1st, 1872.

HARTFORD:
PRESS OF CASE, LOCKWOOD AND BRAINARD.
1872.

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Vernon, Conn. First Congregational church.

The confession of faith and covenant of the First Congregational church in Vernon, Conn., together with standing rules and historical notices of the church, and a catalogue of the present officers and members; June 1st, 1872. Hartford[Conn.]1872.

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MANUAL

OF THE

First Congregational Church

IN

VERNON, CONN.

1872.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I.

You believe in the existence of one only living and true God, who is possessed of every natural and moral perfection.

ARTICLE II.

You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were written by holy men as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and that they contain the only perfect rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE III.

You believe that God created all things for His own glory, and that He governs all worlds and events according to the counsel of His own will.

ARTICLE IV.

You believe that God exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are one in essence, and equal in every divine perfection.

ARTICLE V.

You believe that man was created perfect in holiness, that he fell from his original state of rectitude by sinning against God, and that in consequence of his fall, all his posterity are by nature, totally depraved, and under sentence of condemnation.

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ARTICLE VI.

You believe that the only Redeemer of men is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, assumed human nature, and by his sufferings and death, made an atonement for the sins of all men.

ARTICLE VII.

You believe that salvation is freely offered in the Gospel, on condition of repentance for sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that the atonement made by Christ is the sole ground of the justification of believers; and that such is the state of the natural heart that it is only by "the renewing of the Holy Ghost" that any are saved.

ARTICLE VIII.

You believe that "God," in His sovereign pleasure, "hath, from the beginning, chosen" some "to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth."

ARTICLE IX.

You believe that all who comply with the terms of the Gospel, will be "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."

ARTICLE X.

You believe that you are under obligation to obey all the commands of God, and that without a conscientious discharge of your personal and relative duties as enjoined in the Scriptures, there can be no decisive evidence of your justification.

ARTICLE XI.

You believe that Christ has a Church on earth, composed of those who profess their faith in him and unite in covenant, and that vital piety is a necessary qualification for Christian communion.

ARTICLE XII.

You believe that Christ has instituted discipline in his Church, and appointed the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that Baptism is to be administered to believers and to their households.

ARTICLE XIII.

You believe that the first day of the week is the Christian Sabbath; that the worship of God in the closet, family, and sanctuary, is divinely appointed, and that it is a Christian duty to contribute for the support of the Gospel at home, and for the diffusion of its blessings through the earth.

ARTICLE XIV.

You also believe that, at the end of the world, there will be a resurrection of the dead; that the Son of man, attended by his holy angels, will sit upon his throne of glory, and judge the world in righteousness; and that he will doom the wicked to everlasting punishment, and receive the righteous into life eternal.

Do you thus believe?

COVENANT.

You do now, in the presence of the heart-searching God and this assembly, avouch the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to be your God, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. You do freely and forever give up yourself [*or*, yourselves] and all you have to Him, humbly confessing your sins, and depending wholly upon the merits of Christ for pardon and salvation. Taking the word of God as the only unerring rule of doctrine and duty, you do solemnly promise, by the aid of divine grace, to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, and honor your holy vocation, by a life of piety towards God and benevolence towards men.

You do sincerely dedicate yourself [*or*, yourselves] to the service of God in this Church, and deliberately promise to submit to its watch and discipline; to walk with its members in Christian fellowship, and to labor for the promotion of its purity, peace, and edification, till, in the providence of God, your special relation to it shall be dissolved.

With an affecting belief that your vows are recorded on high, and will be reviewed on the day of final judgment, *do you thus covenant with God and this Church?*

We, then, as a Church, [*all the members of the Church here rise*] do cordially receive you to our communion, and promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to beseech the Great Head of the Church to enable you to keep the solemn covenant which you have now made. And may we all have grace to be faithful to God and to one another while we live, and be finally prepared, through the Redeemer's merits, for admission to everlasting fellowship with those who shall be "called to the marriage-supper of the Lamb."

STANDING RULES.

Resolved, That members of this Church about to remove to other places, will be expected to apply for letters of dismission, or certificates of church membership, to be presented to the Church where they purpose to reside;—that members who shall be absent with certificates, will be expected, after one year's absence, to apply for letters of dismission, or assign reasons for not doing it;—and that we feel it a duty to inquire after all our absent members who shall not comply with this resolution.

Resolved, That members of sister Churches who desire to commune with this Church more than one year, will be expected to request a removal of their church relation to us, unless there are special reasons for delay; and that we consider it our duty to inform sister Churches, if we know of any of their members residing among us who do not attend upon the special ordinances of the Gospel with us, or who, in other respects, conduct themselves in a manner inconsistent with their Christian profession.

Resolved, That we regard it as irregular, and as a violation of covenant obligations, for any member to withdraw from our communion without requesting a letter of dismission and recommendation to a sister Church.

Resolved, That we regard the manufacture, sale, or use of ardent spirits as a beverage, in the midst of the light which now exists in our country on the subject, as inconsistent with the Christian profession.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The territory comprised in the present town of Vernon was originally settled by persons from Windsor, and in 1760 became a parish, by the name of North Bolton, formed from the towns of Bolton and Windsor. It was incorporated as a town in 1808. Previous to the formation of the Ecclesiastical Society, the people generally attended upon the ministrations of the Rev. Thomas White, who was ordained pastor of the Church in Bolton, in October, 1725. The Church in Vernon, composed of thirty-five members from the Church in Bolton, was formed in October, 1762.

On the 2d of October, 1837, thirty-five members were dismissed from this Church, who were, with others, October 26th, 1837, organized as the Second Congregational Church in Vernon, now the First Congregational Church in Rockville.

On the 18th of December, 1866, forty-one members were dismissed from this Church, who united with others, March 13th, 1867, in forming the Congregational Church in Talcottville.

PASTORS.

The first pastor, the Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg, was ordained November 24th, 1762. He died September 3d, 1817, in the 81st year of his age, and the 55th year of his ministry in this place.

The Rev. William Ely was ordained March 11th, 1818; and was dismissed February 21st, 1822. He died at Worcester, Mass., November 2d, 1850, aged 58.

The Rev. Amzi Benedict was installed June 30th, 1824; and was dismissed February 10th, 1830. He died at Brooklyn, N. Y., November 17th, 1856, aged 65.

The Rev. CHESTER HUMPHREY was ordained October 4th, 1832. He died April 18th, 1843, aged 40.

The Rev. ALBERT SMITH, D. D., was installed May 21st, 1845; and was dismissed by a Council convened September 6th, 1854, the pastoral relation closing on the 8th of October, 1854. He died at Godfrey, Madison Co., Ill., April 24th, 1863, aged 59.

The Rev. MARK TUCKER, D. D., was installed April 15th, 1857; and was dismissed by a Council convened March 25th, 1863, the pastoral relation closing on the 1st of April, 1863.

The Rev. JESSE BRUSH was installed June 13th, 1865; and was dismissed by a Council convened March 26th, 1867, the pastoral relation closing on the 1st of April, 1867.

The Rev. REUBEN S. KENDALL was installed October 1st, 1867; and was dismissed January 19th, 1871.

The Rev. AMOS S. CHESEBROUGH began his labors as Acting Pastor, April 1st, 1871.

DEACONS.

NAMES.	CHOSEN.	DIED OR DISMISSED.	AGE.
JOHN CHAPMAN,	Dec. 29, 1762,	Died Feb. 14, 1774,	59.
TITUS OLCOTT,	Dec. 29, 1762,	" Oct. 9, 1774,	69.
SETH KING,	April 29, 1773,	" July 23, 1780,	57.
EZEKIEL LADD,	April 29, 1773,	Dis. 1781.	
DAVID DORCHESTER,	1780,	Died June 18, 1795,	76.
BENJAMIN TALCOTT,	1781,	" April 18, 1811,	86.
ELISHA LADD,	May 31, 1792,	Dis. about 1802.	
OLIVER KING,	June 3, 1802,	Died July 6, 1818,	70.
SAMUEL TALCOTT,	June 17, 1802,	" May 26, 1813,	56.
PHINEAS TALCOTT,	June 13, 1813,	" Dec. 17, 1835,	77.
FRANCIS KING,	June 14, 1816,	Dis. April 19, 1836.	
FLAVEL TALCOTT,	Oct. 18, 1833,	Died Mar. 28, 1844,	58.
ALLYN KELLOGG,	Oct. 18, 1833.		
HORACE W. TALCOTT,	Oct. 31, 1848,	Dis. Dec. 18, 1866.	
WILLIAM E. KELLOGG,	May 11, 1871.		

NOTICES.

The Annual Meeting of the Church is held on Thursday preceding the first Sabbath in May.

The Lord's Supper is administered regularly on the first Sabbath afternoon in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The Preparatory Lecture is preached on Thursday preceding the Communion Sabbath.

The weekly Church Prayer Meeting is held on Thursday.

Contributions for Benevolent purposes are ordinarily made once in two months. The present arrangement of objects is as follows:

March,—Home Missions.
May,—American Missionary Association.
September,—American Bible Society.
November,—Foreign Missions.

The contributions in January and July are for such objects, varying from time to time, as may be thought specially worthy of assistance.

A collection is also taken up at each communion, for church uses.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

ACTING PASTOR.

Rev. AMOS S. CHESEBROUGH.

DEACONS.

ALLYN KELLOGG.
WILLIAM E. KELLOGG.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

ALLYN KELLOGG.
ALLYN S. KELLOGG.
CHESTER RISLEY.
WILLIAM E. KELLOGG.
ALFRED C. ROBERTS.

CLERK.

ALLYN S. KELLOGG.

Superintendent of Sabbath School.

ALFRED C. ROBERTS.

CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS.

June 1st, 1872.

EXPLANATIONS.

The date of admission is placed before the name.

L standing before a name, signifies that the person was received by letter from another Church.

The name enclosed in a parenthesis, following the Christian name of a female, was her maiden family name.

The names of husband and wife standing together in the Catalogue, are connected with a brace.

W. is used as an abbreviation for wife; and wid. for widow.

July 4, 1858, Louisa A. Allen.
Nov. 4, 1869, L John Allen.
Nov. 4, 1869, L Cynthia (Colton) Allen.
June 29, 1871, L William H. Allen.
June 29, 1871, L Cordelia W. (Carpenter) Allen.

July 3, 1825, Ruth (Carpenter) Baker, wid. of Ezekiel.
Sept. 2, 1860, L Lois Barber.
July 4, 1869, Mary R. Barber.
May 6, 1869, L Randall A. Beach.
May 6, 1869, L Susan M. (Chapman) Beach.
May 5, 1872, Ida M. Beach.
Sept. 13, 1856, L Anna (Butler) Blinn, w. of James.
May 9, 1869, Isaac N. Blinn.
May 9, 1869, Charlotte Jane (Fish) Blinn.
May 9, 1869, Lucy Frances Blinn.
May 9, 1869, Agnes Maria Blinn.
May 6, 1869, L Lafayette Bosworth.
May 1, 1859, L Catherine C. (Fuller) Butler, w. of Josiah.
July 1, 1866, Selina G. Butler.

July 17, 1836, L Sophia (Hutchens) Cady, wid. of Russell.
June 29, 1871, L Danford N. Case.
June 29, 1871, L Laura A. (Risley) Case.
Nov. 3, 1833, Rachel Chapman.
March 6, 1842, Andrew W. Chapman.
May 11, 1854, L Emily (Smith) Chapman, wid. of Theodore.
June 1, 1856, L Isaac Chester.
June 1, 1856, L Azubah (Clark) Chester.
July 4, 1858, Ellen S. Clark.
July 1, 1866, Elizabeth L. Clark.
April, 1847, L Isaac Comstock.
April, 1847, L Harriet (Baker) Comstock.
May 1, 1859, L Ella (Fuller) Comstock, wid. of Alvin B.
March 7, 1858, Charles A. Corbin.
March 7, 1858, L Lovisa (Lawson) Corbin.
Sept. 9, 1866, Alice M. Corbin.

Jan. 1, 1852, L Amanda (Barber) Dart, wid. of Oliver.
Jan. 1, 1852, L George Dart.
March 7, 1852, Harriet M. (Thompson) Dart.
May 5, 1872, Ella M. Dart.
Nov. 1, 1857, Merion (Walker) Dart, wid. of Albert G.
May 5, 1861, Flavia (Barber) Dart, w. of James.
May 5, 1872, Flavia Emma Dart.
Oct. 1864, L Harriet N. (Kingsbury) Dart, w. of Adron.
March 7, 1858, Julia (White) Dobson, w. of John S.
March 6, 1831, Martha (Allen) Driggs, wid. of Abel.
March 6, 1842, Alfred Driggs.
Aug. 18, 1853, L Henrietta (Collins) Driggs.
July 4, 1869, John Waldo Driggs.

May 9, 1869, Harvey S. Ellis.
May 5, 1872, Samuel K. Ellis.
May 5, 1872, Sarah L. (Towne) Ellis.

May 2, 1872, L Sarah (Roberts) Fenn, w. of Rev. Stephen.
July 4, 1858, Elizabeth (Chester) Fisk, w. of Robert E.
July 4, 1861, L Lydia (Lee) Fuller, wid. of Halsey.

May 4, 1871, L John D. Gallup.
May 4, 1871, L Mary R. (Beebe) Gallup.

Jan. 2, 1820, Josiah Hammond.
July 1, 1855, Rosette Hammond.
Nov. 7, 1841, Martha S. Hammond.
March 6, 1859, L George G. Hammond.
March 6, 1859, L Eliza J. (Hillard) Hammond.
May 9, 1869, Annie K. Hammond.
May 9, 1869, Mary Lizzie Hammond.
Nov. 21, 1867, L Cutler N. Howe.
Nov. 21, 1867, L Eunice (Kimball) Howe.
May 9, 1869, Frank N. Howe.
May 5, 1872, George C. Howe.
Jan. 1, 1832, Permelia (Chesebro) Hunt, wid. of Flavel.
March 4, 1832, Ursula Hunt.

Sept. 2, 1869, L Celia S. (Willes) James, w. of Silas.
May 9, 1869, William E. James.
Sept. 3, 1871, Flora P. James.

Jan. 1, 1832, Allyn Kellogg.
Aug. 25, 1822, L Eliza (White) Kellogg.
March 4, 1832, Hubbard Kellogg.
March 6, 1836, L Julia (Selden) Kellogg.
Jan. 4, 1852, Aaron Kellogg.
July 20, 1865, L Lydia A. S. (Dodge) Kellogg.
Nov. 2, 1854, L Allyn S. Kellogg.
Nov. 5, 1864, L Maria L. (Avery) Kellogg.
Nov. 3, 1850, Mary L. Kellogg.
Sept. 11, 1861, William E. Kellogg.
Sept. 6, 1866, L Josephine E. (Strong) Kellogg.
Sept. 1, 1816, Roxcy King.
April 1, 1842, L Augustus Kneeland.
Sept. 3, 1871, Emily Elsie Kneeland.

Jan. 13, 1867, Nancy H. Lathrop.
Sept. 3, 1871, Julia H. Lathrop.
May 2, 1872, L Seleucia (Hawkes) Loveland, w. of Henry A.

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July 1, 1869, L Charles McLean.
July 1, 1869, L Octa S. (Strong) McLean.
July 1, 1869, L Jerusha D. McLean.
May 9, 1869, Ella Octa McLean.

Aug. 15, 1813, Anna (Loomis) Palmer, wid. of Eliot.
Dec. 1853, L Sarah A. (Russell) Parker, w. of Ephraim.
Dec. 22, 1848, L Elam Pearl.
Dec. 22, 1848, L Lucy K. (Rogers) Pearl.
Aug. 15, 1845, L Cynthia E. Peck.
Sept. 11, 1864, Henry Peck.
Oct. 29, 1863, L Lavina (Dickinson) Post, w. of Ichabod.
May 9, 1869, Albert W. Post.
Sept. 3, 1871, Lizzie F. Post.
Jan. 2, 1831, L Susan M. Pratt.

June 1, 1856, L Mariva (Baker) Risley, wid. of William H.
Nov. 1, 1857, L Chester Risley.
May 9, 1869, Edwin L. Risley.
March 7, 1852, Alfred C. Roberts.
May 2, 1858, Mary H. (Kellogg) Roberts.
May 5, 1872, Alfred K. Roberts.
Nov. 7, 1841, Sarah P. Rogers.
May 5, 1872, Harriet R. Rogers.
July 2, 1871, Nancy C. (Powers) Russell, w. of George.
Jan. 1, 1859, Sarah Loraine Russell.

March 6, 1831, Lucy Sage.
Nov. 1, 1857, Harriet W. (Dart) Skinner, w. of George.
June 11, 1815, Hannah (Wells) Smith, wid. of Obadiah K.
March 4, 1832, Mabel Smith.
June 4, 1847, L Phebe (Kingsbury) Smith, wid. of Daniel.
Aug. 1849, L Prudence Smith.
July 1, 1866, Margaret Stewart.
March 4, 1860, L Nathan M. Strong.
March 4, 1860, L Abbie L. (Hollister) Strong.

May 2, 1858, Stephen A. Tefft.

May	9, 1869,	Alfred O. Thrall.
May	9, 1869,	Julia E. (West) Thrall.
June	29, 1871, L	Ella A. Tracy.
July	2, 1871,	Agnes C. Tracy.

May	9, 1869,	John Walker.
Oct.	30, 1862, L	Sophia A. (Woodford) Walker.
May	9, 1869,	Claruth Walker.
Sept.	11, 1864,	Alice M. Walker.
May	9, 1869,	Frederick Eugene Walker.
May	9, 1869,	Harriet E. Walker.
May	5, 1872,	Jennie L. Walker.
July	2, 1871,	Harriet M. (Turner) Whitcomb, w. of Jona.
Nov.	1, 1829,	Philenda (Roberts) White, wid. of Chester.
May	2, 1858,	Maria L. White.
Feb.	26, 1863, L	Flavel Whiton.
Feb.	26, 1863, L	Flavia Rodelia Whiton.
July	1, 1869, L	Horatio Willes.
July	1, 1869, L	Eliza P. (Bolles) Willes.
May	9, 1869,	Olive E. Willes.
July	4, 1858, L	Lorin Wright.

Male Members, ...	44.
Female Members, ...	99.
Total, ...	143.

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